

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants:	Crump et al.	Docket	BA00117
Serial No.:	09/459,522	Group:	3761
Filed:	December 13, 1999	Examiner:	Darwin P. Erez
For:	ENDOTRACHEAL CATHETER AND MANIFOLD ASSEMBLY WITH IMPROVED VALVE		

Amendment

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in response to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2002 it is respectfully requested the Examiner reconsider the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follow:

Claim 1, please amend to read as follows:

1. (Amended.) An apparatus comprising:

- a catheter configured for receiving fluids from a respiratory tract of a patient;
- a manifold defining a ventilation circuit disposed in communication with the catheter so as to allow the catheter to be advanced through the ventilation circuit of the manifold and into the respiratory tract of the patient; and
- a valve disposed in the manifold, the valve being configured to selectively limit the withdrawal of air from the ventilation circuit, wherein the valve comprises at least one protrusion on at least one surface of the valve, and wherein the valve is a flap.

Claim 11, please amend to read as follows:

11. (Amended.) An endotracheal catheter system comprising:

- a catheter having a distal end configured for suctioning secretions from the respiratory system of a patient;
- a ventilator manifold disposed in communication with the catheter such that the catheter may be advanced through the manifold into the respiratory system of the patient and withdrawn from the respiratory system of the patient through the manifold; and